I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

A. Listing of Claims

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled).

13. (New) A data communication method, comprising the steps of:

providing a transmission side connector at a first computer,

providing a reception side connector at a second computer,

transmitting data from the first computer to the second computer in a manner that data transmission from the second computer to the first computer is restricted by coupling a transmission terminal of the transmission side connector to a reception terminal of the reception side connector and disconnecting a reception terminal of the transmission side connector from a transmission terminal of the reception side connector,

monitoring a signal of the first computer by the first computer by coupling the transmission terminal of the transmission side connector to the reception terminal of the transmission side connector to confirm a connection state therebetween; and

transmitting a signal representing data reception at the second computer to the first computer via a signal line physically different from a signal line for transmitting data to the second computer from the first computer.

14. (New) A data communication method, comprising the steps of:

providing a transmission side connector at a first computer,

providing a reception side connector at a second computer,

coupling a transmission terminal of one polarity side of the transmission side connector to a reception terminal of one polarity side of the reception side connector,

transmitting data from the first computer to the second computer in a manner that data transmission from the second computer to the first computer is restricted by coupling a transmission terminal of other polarity side of the transmission side connector to a reception terminal of other polarity side of the reception side connector and disconnecting a reception terminal of the transmission side connector from a transmission terminal of the reception side connector,

monitoring a signal of the first computer by the first computer by coupling the transmission terminal of the one polarity side of the transmission side connector to the reception terminal of the one polarity side of the transmission side connector and coupling the transmission terminal of the other polarity side of the transmission side connector to the reception terminal of the other polarity side of the transmission side connector to confirm a connection state therebetween; and

transmitting a signal representing data reception at the second computer to the first computer via a signal line physically different from a signal line for transmitting data to the second computer from the first computer, wherein

coupling between the transmission terminal of the one polarity side of the transmission side connector and the reception terminal of the one polarity side of the reception side connector and coupling between the transmission terminal of the other polarity side of the transmission side connector and the reception terminal of the other polarity side of the reception side connector are realized by a physically common communication line.

15. (New) An information processing apparatus as a first computer which comprises:

a data transmission processing unit for transmitting data to a second computer,

an input unit for inputting a signal representing data reception at the second computer, and

a transmission side connector, wherein:

a transmission terminal of one polarity side of the transmission side connector of the first computer is coupled to a reception terminal of one polarity side of a reception side connector, data is transmitted from the data transmission processing unit to the second computer in a manner that data transmission from the second computer to the first computer is restricted by coupling a transmission terminal of other polarity side of the transmission side connector to a reception terminal of other polarity side of the reception side connector and disconnecting a reception terminal of the transmission side connector from a transmission terminal of the reception side connector,

a signal of the first computer is monitored by the first computer by coupling the transmission terminal of the one polarity side of the transmission side connector to the reception terminal of the one polarity side of the transmission side connector and coupling the transmission terminal of the other polarity side of the transmission side connector to the reception terminal of the other polarity side of the transmission side connector to confirm a connection state therebetween,

a signal representing data reception at the second computer is inputted to the input unit via a signal line physically different from a signal line for transmitting data to the second computer from the first computer, and

coupling between the transmission terminal of the one polarity side of the transmission side connector and the reception terminal of the one polarity side of the reception side connector and coupling between the transmission terminal of the other polarity side of the transmission side connector and the reception terminal of the other polarity side of the reception side connector are realized by a physically common communication line.

16. (New) An information processing apparatus as a first computer which comprises:

a data transmission processing unit for transmitting data to a second computer,

an input unit for inputting a signal representing data reception at the second computer, and

a transmission side connector, wherein:

a signal is transmitted from the data transmission processing unit to the second computer in a manner that data transmission from the second computer to the first computer is restricted by coupling a transmission terminal of the transmission side connector to a reception terminal of a reception side connector of the second computer and disconnecting a reception terminal of the transmission side connector from a transmission terminal of the reception side connector;

a signal of the first computer is monitored by the first computer by coupling the transmission terminal of the transmission side connector to the reception terminal of the transmission side connector to confirm a connection state therebetween; and

a signal representing data reception at the second computer is inputted to the input unit via a signal line physically different from a signal line for transmitting data to the second computer from the first computer.